Vote No. 263

September 9, 1998, 5:00 p.m. Page S-10093 Temp. Record

BANKRUPTCY REFORM/Cloture (Motion to Proceed)

SUBJECT: Consumer Bankruptcy Reform Act...S. 1301. Lott motion to close debate on the motion to proceed.

ACTION: CLOTURE ON THE MOTION TO PROCEED AGREED TO, 99-1

SYNOPSIS: As reported with a substitute amendment, S. 1301, the Consumer Bankruptcy Reform Act, will enact reforms to prevent creditors who have the means of paying their debts from unjustly filing for bankruptcy, and will enact reforms to protect consumers from unfair credit practices.

On September 3, 1998, Senator Lott sent to the desk, for himself and others, a motion to close debate on the motion to proceed to the bill.

NOTE: A three-fifths majority (60) vote of the Senate is required to invoke cloture.

The Senate subsequently agreed to the motion to proceed by voice vote. A substitute amendment that had been negotiated with interested parties was then offered, and cloture was filed on that amendment. Later, by unanimous consent, Senators agreed to limit amendments to the bill, and the second cloture motion was withdrawn.

Those favoring the motion to invoke cloture contended:

This bill, which passed the Judiciary Committee by a vote of 16-2, addresses a very real problem, and it addresses it in a strong spirit of bipartisan compromise. On many if not most of its provisions, both parties are in agreement on the approach that should be taken. Also, each party has agreed to include provisions which it does not favor, but which the other side supports. For the past 16 years the Senate has cooperated in this bipartisan fashion when dealing with the issue of bankruptcy, and we are very pleased that it has continued in that tradition.

Unfortunately, though, there is an effort underway among many Democrats to hold this bill hostage to extraneous issues. The main reason that we have had to file cloture on the motion to proceed is that Democrats have threatened a filibuster unless they are

(See other side)

YEAS (99)				NAYS (1)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republican (54 or 98%)		Democrats (45 or 100%)		Republicans (1 or 2%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans	Democrats (0)
						(0)	
Abraham Allard Ashcroft Bennett Bond Burns Campbell Chafee Coats Cochran Collins Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Domenici Enzi Faircloth Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grams Grassley Gregg Hagel Hatch Helms	Hutchinson Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Roberts Roth Santorum Sessions Shelby Smith, Bob Smith, Gordon Snowe Specter Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner	Akaka Baucus Biden Bingaman Boxer Breaux Bryan Bumpers Byrd Cleland Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Durbin Feingold Feinstein Ford Glenn Graham Harkin Hollings Inouye	Johnson Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Landrieu Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Mikulski Moseley-Braun Moynihan Murray Reed Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Torricelli Wellstone Wyden	Brownback		EXPLANAT 1—Official F 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired PN—Paired	ily Absent nced Yea nced Nay Yea